

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Mr. Clerk, items for the record at this time.

CLERK: I do, Mr. President, thank you. Quickly, corrected, Interim Study Resolution Report by the Business and Labor Committee. New resolution. (Read brief summary of LR 297. See pages 324-25 of the Legislative Journal.)

Senator Wehrbein has selected LB 984 as his priority bill for this session. Hearing notices from Natural Resources, Transportation, Revenue and Business and Labor. And, Mr. President, a few new bills. (Read LBs 1110-1116 by title for the first time. See pages 325-28 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, that's all that I have. The next motion, with respect to LB 277, is by Senator Bernard-Stevens. (Bernard-Stevens amendment appears on page 328 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Bernard-Stevens, to open on your motion.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker...or Senator Hall, members of the body. The discussion on the proper...which way we should fund it struck, I think, a cord in most the people in the body. This amendment is a very simple amendment, at least the intent is. I hope it is drafted correctly, and for E & R the intent certainly of the amendment is to General Fund it. This would take the fee structure out and basically say it will be Generally Funded. If you go to your fiscal sheet, instead of Cash, it would be General Fund. My sense of the following is that Senator Lindsay is absolutely correct, when we get to these issues we talk tough, but we haven't funded them. Bottom line is if you look at the Final Reading and you look at the number of A bills sitting on Final Reading, there are very few, the list is very short. You look at Select File now and you look at those bills that are pending that are A bills, there are very few of those bills there at not a great cost. As the budget will come forward, and if you remember the green sheet from last year, there is money left over for A bills. There...there...there is money, at this particular point this year, to be able to afford to do that. I suspect that the decision on funding should simply be made by the will of this